

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of

### Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. QA-114

#### 1. Name of Property

(indicate preferred name)

historic Blakeford

other

#### 2. Location

street and number north of Queenstown Creek not for publication

city, town Queenstown, MD x vicinity

county Queen Anne's

#### 3. Owner of Property

(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name John L. Carroll (New York) CWC 48/514; William Everdell (New York) CWC 48/204; Clarence W. Miles

street and number (Queenstown) TSP 35/472 telephone

city, town state zip code

#### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Queen Anne's County Courthouse liber see above folio

city, town Centreville, MD tax map tax parcel tax ID number

#### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
- ☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- ☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- ☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- ☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
- ☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	<input type="text"/>	

---

## 7. Description

Inventory No. QA-114

---

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered

---

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Blakeford is located in the southwestern part of Tilghman's Neck, on a peninsula formed by the Chester River to the west and by Queenstown Creek to the south and east. The town of Queenstown lies immediately to the south across Queenstown Creek, but is considerably farther by road.

The main house at Blakeford was destroyed by fire in 1970 and has never been rebuilt. The house that was destroyed had been extensively altered and enlarged in 1935 by the owner at that time, George M. Moffett, according to a design prepared by New York architect Bradley Delehanty. Fortunately, a number of photographs and some descriptive material has survived from before the 1935 renovation.

The best photographs are to be found in Hammond, Colonial Mansions of Maryland and Delaware (1914) and in Earle, Maryland's Colonial Eastern Shore (1916). From there it can be seen that Blakeford (as it was built in 1834-35) was a 2 ½ story frame dwelling, five bays wide and five bays deep with a hipped roof surmounted by large interior chimneys and a balustrade. Two story porches dominated the north and south facades, while a one-story entrance porch was centered on the west façade and a two-part, two story frame wing projected from the east wall.

The interior plan was a variation of the center passage, double-pile plan, with secondary passages forming a cross axis with the principal center passage, which ran north-south. Evidently, the original stair was located in the secondary hall to the east, but in 1935 was moved to the south end of the principal center passage.

Further description of the building can be derived from several sources. Hammond offers the following brief summary:

...It consists of a main house and a wing. The walls are of masonry covered with clap-boards, and the whole construction of the house is one of great substantiality.

The interior of the mansion is very delightful. It is divided through the middle by a hallway which connects with another hall extending to the side of the house, which has no wing... The dining room is heavily paneled and the main hall contains arches, yet the whole character of the house is very simple and without elaboration....<sup>1</sup>

In 1955, Edward C. Morse published a lengthy article on Blakeford in the Maryland Historical Magazine (Vol. 50, No. 4, p. 291-304). Morse describes the house in some detail, remarking on some of the changes made in 1935, particularly to the interior:

...The present main dwelling was built in 1834-35, the third to be built on approximately the same location. A hundred years later, without disturbing the basic structure, Mr. George M. Moffett, the owner, and Bradley Delehanty, the New York architect, with extraordinary skill converted the structure into its present American Georgian form. Some minor changes were made in the interior and two story brick wings were added on the east and west. The square central block measures 46 ½ x 46 ½ ft., and is of brick and clapboards, two-and-a-half stories high, painted white to match the color of the whitewashed brick wings. Colonnades replaced the former porches on the north and south elevations and a third colonnade was put at the end of the new west wing. The massive chimneys, also white, contrast with the dark roof, which is topped with a railed-in deck larger than those commonly seen in Maryland.

The interior of the main section of the house is divided by a central hallway running north and south. Entering from the south, the library is on the left, the dining room on the right. The floors are of walnut; that of the central hall was covered in 1935 at the time of the remodeling with random-width walnut boards cut from the estate and fixed in place with dowels. The main stairway, now in the central hall with a Palladian window at the landing above, was formerly in a lesser corridor which was eliminated to provide a larger dining room. The latter has an imposing mantel and a beautifully carved corner cupboard. White walls and woodwork set off the mahogany Hepplewhite furniture and oriental rug which until recently ornamented it.

---

<sup>1</sup> Hammond, John M. Colonial Mansions of Maryland and Delaware. Philadelphia, J.B. Lippincott Company, 1914. p. 205-206

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. QA-114

Blakeford  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 7 Page 1

---

The large living room and part-time ballroom has old-white walls and dark paneling about the exquisite fire-place and a break-front bookcase in a corner. When furnished this room was said to glow with warm browns and shades of *bois de rose*. The library with its faded-blue, paneled walls and recessed alcoves for books was an excellent example of eighteenth century interior design. The east wing comprises the service quarters.

... East of the dwelling, and flanking what was the east side of the main structure, are two old, wood buildings, with peaked roofs, topped with pigeon cotes reminding one of two sentinels guarding a main establishment. These buildings, the brick cellar of the central block, the great wide chimney and signs of ancient lateral ovens, are reminiscent of eighteenth century days...<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>2</sup> Morse, Edward C. "Blakeford, Queen Anne's County" Maryland Historical Magazine Vol. 50, No. 4 December, 1955. p. 291-304.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. QA-114

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	

**Specific dates** 1834-35; 1935; burned Jan. 13, 1970.

**Architect/Builder**

### Construction dates

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☐ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Blakeford is primarily significant today as an archeological site and for its associations with several of the most prominent families in Queen Anne's County during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, including the COursey, Blake, Wright and Thom families. In particular, Blakeford was the home for many years of Judge Solomon Wright and later his son, Robert Wright, the 13<sup>th</sup> governor of Maryland (1806-1809).

The early history of Blakeford is somewhat uncertain. Traditionally, it is said that Blakeford was part of the so-called "Thumb Grant" awarded to Colonel Henry Coursey by Charles, third Lord Baltimore. This story was published by Hammond in 1914, and has since been quoted repeatedly in later publications by authors ranging from Swepson Earle to Paul Wilstach. More careful research by Edward C. Morse sidesteps the traditional story, and concentrates on more specific documentary evidence.

According to Morse, Blakeford was patented by Charles Blake as a resurvey in 1727, encompassing parts of "Coursey Neck" (145 acres), "Hemsley's Choice" (300 acres, including White Banks), "Long Neglect" (58 acres) and 52 acres of vacant land. "Coursey Neck" can be traced back to 1658, when it was patented by William Coursey. A detailed plat of the property, based on the 1727 resurvey, may be found in Morse's article.<sup>3</sup>

Charles Blake was the son of Charles Blake, Sr., "Gent" of London. He was educated in Paris and emigrated to America about the year 1685. Beginning in the late 1690's Blake began to acquire land in the Chester/Wye River vicinity. Charles Blake died in 1732 and Blakeford passed to his son, Philemon Charles Blake I, who was apparently a resident at Blakeford in 1723. Philemon Blake married Sarah Frisby, daughter of Captain Peregrine Frisby. In 1753 Philemon executed his will, allowing his wife a life tenancy on her choice of his plantation holdings. His son Philemon Charles II was made heir of Blakeford. Philemon Charles Blake II married Anne Hopper, produced at least two sons, and died in 1765, only four years after his father's death. Blakeford descended to Philemon Charles Blake III, while other family property was devised to his brother, William Hopper Blake. Both sons were minors when their father died in 1765. Orphans Court records have survived from this period, including three separate valuations of Blakeford.. The first of these, prepared in April 1768, identified Ann Blake, the mother, as guardian and offers the following description of Blakeford:

....upon carefully viewing the said plantation and improvements on that part of Blakeford the residence of which shown to us by Ann Blake as her third devised to her by her husband's will bounded by a creek which divides the said land and the land of Mr. William Tilghman and so with the creek and Chester River to a marsh along the east side of the Marsh and Branch up to the Head and from thence with a line drawn Northerly till it intersects the division line between the said land and Colonel Richard Tilghman's land so as to include 325 acres and upon the same we find one two story brick house dwelling 51 feet by 22 with a brick back building 35 feet by 22 in the great House the plaistering much broke and fel down some glass broke in the windows and some of the facing of the windows decayed the back building in but midling repair on brick kitchen 22 feet by 20 with 10 foot shead the whole length in very bad order 1 old fram'd meat house 12 feet by 12 in bad repair one old Hen House 20 feet by 15 with flush shead in bad repair, very old

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. QA-114

Blakeford  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

---

double corn house 24 feet by 20 very bad, new log'd ditto 20 feet by 18 badly built, new Overseers house 20 feet by 16 1 log'd stable 18 feet square in very bad repair, 1 old quarter 28 by 18 with shead in very bad repair 3 old tobacco houses 40 feet by 22 in bad repair, 1 overseers house brick gable end with a shead 1 small Shomakers Shop very old and in bad repair 1 Necessary house 10 feet by 5 in bad repair 1 Bee Shead 10 feet by 5 in bad repair 1 pail'd graveyard 20 feet square good 1 pail'd garden 250 feet by 150 feet old and in bad repair 37 grape vines in the garden 70 cherry trees of different sorts and sizes, 2 \_\_\_\_\_ trees, 50 peach trees, 60 old apple trees and 3 young ones 14 mountain cherry trees, 1 plumb tree 2 figg trees, English walnutt tree 5 pear trees 11 Damson trees, 1 Tan yard with 2 brick phats and 4 old plank ditto. Also in pursuance and in Obediance of the above appointment we have.... Entered into the land and premises shown to us by Anne Blake as that part of Blakeford belonging to Philemon Blake and so find thereon 1 old Quarter 20 feet by 16 in bad repair 1 Tobacco House 35 feet by 25 in midling good repair 8 damson trees and 2 paire trees and about 50 acres of clear land the Fencing about the same plantation in but midling repair in Consideration whenof we estimate the annual value of said land and premises to be 1000 pounds of tobacco clear of his Lordships quit rents and necessary repairs and that the guardian is permitted to clear that part that his within the fence as it now stands that foes from the head of the westernmost Branch making out of a marsh before mentioned to the mouth of a small creek opposite the French Houses which we judge to be about 10 acres and the Guardian is likewise permitted to bank and ditch the same marsh and the several branches leading therein and clear them up and put them in Meadow ground...

Thos. Clayton  
Jacob Seth  
27 April 1768<sup>2</sup>

Valuations were also prepared in December 1770 and in July 1772.<sup>3</sup> The most significant difference in these descriptions is that Colonel William Hopper is the guardian and Philemon Charles Blake has become sole owner of the Blakeford property. Copies of the 1770 and 1772 valuations are appended to this report.

Edward Morse notes that the young Blake heir did not live at Blakeford during the Revolutionary War. Perhaps he was living with his guardian, Colonel Hopper. Regardless, Blakeford was rented to Judge Solomon Wright.

Judge Wright was a member of the Maryland Convention of 1771-76; member of the Assembly, 1771-73-74; member of the Association of Freeman; Judge of the Provincial Court; and special Judge for the Eastern Shore during the Revolution.<sup>4</sup> He resided at Blakeford until his death in 1792.<sup>5</sup>

In the meantime, Philemon Charles Blake came of age, and in 1797 married the widow of Samuel Earle, the former Henrietta Maria Nichols. Evidently he experienced financial difficulties, for Blakeford was seized by the sheriff to settle debts, and in 1801 the property was sold.<sup>6</sup> A search of the 1798 Federal Direct Tax discloses only one listing for Philamon Charles Blake. He is noted as the owner of Blakeford and in the "Particular Dwelling Lists" the following description is included:

Philemon Blake (no property name given)  
1 brick dwelling one story 35 x 22  
1 brick kitchen 30 x 23<sup>7</sup>

It is not clear if this entry refers to Blakeford, in which case the larger two story house described in 1768, 1770, and 1772 must have burned or been destroyed, or to another property belonging to Blake.

When Blakeford was sold in 1801, it was purchased by Robert Wright, the son of Judge Solomon Wright.<sup>8</sup> The new owner was at the peak of an illustrious career. He had served as a captain with the Maryland forces in the Revolutionary War, practiced law in Chestertown, and in 1801 was elected to the U. S. Senate. He served in the senate until 1806, when he was elected the 13<sup>th</sup> governor of

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. QA-114

Blakeford  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

---

Maryland. He served three terms as governor, from 1806-09, and then was elected to Congress in 1810, 1812, 1814, and 1820. In 1823 he became District Judge of the Circuit comprising Queen Anne's, Kent, and Talbot Counties. An illustrious horseman, Governor Wright raised a number of renowned race horses and maintained a race track on the Blakeford property.<sup>9</sup>

In 1809, while Governor Wright and his family were in Annapolis, the house at Blakeford was destroyed by fire. According to Edward Morse, a frame dwelling was constructed in its place.

Governor Wright died at Blakeford in 1826. The property was sold to a group led by William Baker. In 1833 Blakeford passed back into the Wright family when it was purchased by the governor's son, William Henry De Coursey Wright. A successful businessman, William H.D.C. Wright had spent considerable time in South America. When he returned to Maryland and settled at Blakeford, he found the frame dwelling built in 1809 to be too small for his large family. He built a new, larger frame house in 1834-35. This was the house that enlarged in 1935 by Mr. Moffett, and was destroyed by fire in 1971.

William H.D.C. Wright died in 1864, and Blakeford passed to his daughter, Antonia Wright, and later to her nephew, William DeCoursey Wright Thom. In 1934 the property passed out of the Wright-Thom family and was purchased by Mr. Moffett.<sup>10</sup>

Upon the death of Mr. Moffett in 1951, Blakeford passed to the Whitehall Foundation, established by Mr. Moffett.<sup>11</sup> In 1957 Blakeford was sold by the Foundation to Charles Miles,<sup>12</sup> and subsequently the 606 acres purchased by Mr. Miles was broken up into several smaller parcels and was subsequently sold.<sup>13</sup> The 19<sup>th</sup> century house built by Wright in 1834-35 and renovated by Mr. Moffett in 1935 was destroyed by an early morning fire on January 13, 1970.<sup>14</sup>

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. QA-114

"Blakeford Rubble Still Burns" Bay Times, Stevensville, Md. Jan. 22, 1970.

Bordley, James, Jr. The Hollyday Family of Maryland. Baltimore, Maryland Historical Society, 1963.

Carley, Edward. The Origins and History of St. Peter's Church, Queenstown, MD. 1637-1976 Queenstown, Md.: 1976.

Clapp, Elizabeth, et. al. Maryland Gardens and Houses. Baltimore: Barton-Gillet Co., 1938.

Earle, Swepson. The Chesapeake Bay Country. New York: Weathervane Books. (Reprint of 1923 edition).

Earle, Swepson. Maryland's Colonial Eastern Shore. New York: Weathervane Books. (Reprint of 1916 edition).

Emory, Frederick. Queen Annes County, Maryland. Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1950.

Hammond, John M. Colonial Mansions of Maryland and Delaware. Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott Co., 1914.

Morse, Edward C. "Blakeford, Queen Anne's County." Maryland Historical Magazine Vol. 50 No.4, December 1955. p. 291-304.

Wilson, Everett B. Maryland's Colonial Mansions. New York: A.S. Barnes and Co. Inc, 1965.

Wilstach, Paul. Tidewater Maryland. New York: Tudor Publishing Co., 1945.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property \_\_\_\_\_

Acreage of historical setting \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale: \_\_\_\_\_

**Verbal boundary description and justification**

## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	Queen Anne's County Historical Society	date	5/13/1981
street & number		telephone	
city or town	Centreville	state	Maryland 21617

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. QA-114

Blakeford  
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

---

## Footnotes

- 1 Morse, Edward B. "Blakeford, Queen Anne's County." Maryland Historical Magazine Vol. 50, No. 4 December 1955. p. 291-304. The following summary of the Blake family is also derived from Morse.
- 2 Deeds, RT# H, folio 206. Valuation of the lands of Philemon C. Blake, minor. 27 April 1768.
- 3 Deeds, RT # I, folio 216-17. Deeds RT # K, folio
- 4 Hammond, p. 205-210.
- 5 There is some disagreement over the date of Judge Solomon Wright's death. Hammond notes that he died in 1792, while Morse cites 1798. Hammond would appear to be correct. Refer to Wills Liber RW 1, folio 14, Last Will and Testament of Solomon Wright. Executed 21 April 1792, probated 4 May 1792.
- 6 Deeds, STW 5, folio 42. 31 October 1801. (424  $\frac{3}{4}$  acres) STW 5, folio 44. 6 November 1802. (50 acres).
- 7 1798 Federal Direct Tax, Worrell Hundred.
- 8 See footnote 6.
- 9 This paragraph and the following review of the house are drawn from Morse, p. 291-304.
- 10 Deeds, Liber WHC 1A, folio 116. 19 March 1935.
- 11 Wills, Liber EEC 1, folio 134. 18 December 1951.
- 12 Deeds, Liber TSP 35, folio 472. 15 July 1957.
- 13 Deeds, Liber TSP 40, folio 23. 17 March 1958.
- 14 Bay Times, Jan. 22, 1970.



## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Blakeford

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

North of Queenstown Creek

CITY, TOWN

Queenstown

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT  
☐ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☒ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☒ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☒ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY** Multiple ownership

NAME

John L. Carroll (New York) CWC 48/514

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

William Everdell (New York) CWC 48/204

Clarence W. Miles (Queenstown) TSP 35/472

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED X site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Blakeford is located in the southwestern part of Tilghman Neck, on a peninsula formed by the Chester River to the west and by Queenstown Creek to the south and east. The town of Queenstown lies immediately to the south across Queenstown Creek, but is considerably farther by road.

The main house at Blakeford was destroyed by fire in 1970 and has never been rebuilt. The house that was destroyed had been extensively altered and enlarged in 1935 by the owner at that time, George M. Moffett, according to a design prepared by New York architect Bradley Delehanty. Fortunately, a number of photographs and some descriptive material has survived from before the 1935 renovation.

The best photographs are to be found in Hammond, Colonial Mansions of Maryland and Delaware (1914) and in Earle, Maryland's Colonial Eastern Shore (1916). From these it can be seen that Blakeford (as it was built in 1834-35) was a 2 1/2 story frame dwelling, five bays wide and five bays deep with a hipped roof surmounted by large interior chimneys and a ballustrade. Two story porches

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## PERIOD

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
100-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1834-35; 1935;  
burned Jan. 13, 1970 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Blakeford is primarily significant today as an archeological site and for its associations with several of the most prominent families in Queen Anne's County during the 18th and 19th centuries, including the Coursey, Blake, Wright and Thom families. In particular, Blakeford was the home for many years of Judge Solomon Wright and later his son, Robert Wright, the 13th Governor of Maryland (1806-1809).

The early history of Blakeford is somewhat uncertain. Traditionally, it is said that Blakeford was part of the so-called "Thumb Grant" awarded to Col. Henry Coursey by Charles, third Lord Baltimore. This story was published by Hammond in 1914, and has since been quoted repeatedly in later publications by authors ranging from Swepson Earle to Paul Wilstach. More careful research by Edward C. Morse sidesteps

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

QA-114

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

"Blakeford Rubble Still Burns" Bay Times, Stevensville,  
Maryland. January 22, 1970.

Bordley, James, Jr. The Hollyday Family of Maryland.

Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1963.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

**LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE

5/13/81

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

